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March 2, 2016

Testimony Opposing Bill 8

Aloha Transportation Chair Joey Manahan and esteemed Councilmembers,
Hawaii Bicycling League opposes Bill 8. However, we support the intent of bettering the public process in the implementation of Complete Streets.

In 2006, Honolulu voters passed Charter Amendment 8, requiring that it "shall be one of the priorities of the department of transportation services to make Honolulu a pedestrian and bicycle-friendly city."

Honolulu's Complete Streets Ordinance (Bill 26) transformed the way we approach our roadways through having our planners and engineers look at every project with an eye for how it can be made more complete and safe for all roadway users. The policy enables the city to identify opportunities to accommodate all users of the road and maximize transportation dollars within existing projects by embedding awareness into the planning and design process for all projects. It requires that the four city departments—DTS, DDC, DFM, DPP—that work with the county's roadways use an interdepartmental checklist to assess opportunities to improve travel for all users of the road in conjunction with new development, reconstruction, and maintenance projects.

Bill 8 would require that the Council approve every individual Complete Streets project—from sidewalks to curb ramps. This would separate out transportation features for non-drivers from the rest of a project and treat them as stand alone projects requiring special scrutiny, holding them to a different public input process than other transportation projects and impede needed improvements.

Hawaii Bicycling League has joined the Complete Streets Coalition in expressing our concerns about Bill 8. We are thankful to have begun constructive conversations with the Council and look forward to working with Council to better our Complete Streets policy.

Thank you very much for considering the comments of the Hawaii Bicycling League. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please contact Chad Taniguchi (808-735-5756, chad@hbl.org) or Daniel Alexander (808-275-6717, daniel@hbl.org).

Ride and Drive Aloha,

Chad Taniguchi, Executive Director

Daniel Alexander, Advocacy Director

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